

## Statements of support

As Minister of Health of the Democratic Republic of Congo, I pledge our support to the Global Partnership to Stop TB.

With 9 million cases and 2 million deaths each year, the global tuberculosis epidemic is one of the most important global humanitarian and development challenges. We recognize the Global Plan as a comprehensive assessment of the action and resources needed to meet the Stop TB Partnership's global targets for 2015. This is a critical contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and eventually to the realization of a world free of tuberculosis.

We recall that at the 58th World Health Assembly, United Nations member states adopted a Resolution on Sustainable Financing for Tuberculosis Prevention and Control, in which they made a commitment to ensure the availability of sufficient domestic resources and of sufficient external resources to achieve the internationally agreed development goal relevant to tuberculosis control contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. In reaffirming this commitment, we fully support the range of measures needed to implement the Global Plan to Stop TB, 2006-2015.

We encourage all partners to join in this important endeavour to make a positive and lasting change in the global fight against tuberculosis.



**Emile BONGELI YEIKELO YA ATO**  
Minister of Health, Democratic Republic of Congo

The Global Plan to Stop TB for 2006-2015 clearly sets out the activities to achieve the Stop TB Partnership's global targets of halving TB prevalence and deaths by 2015. The Plan presents a convincing argument for the resources needed for actions, based on sound epidemiological analysis with robust budget justifications.

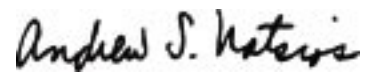
Progress towards the targets for 2015 represents a step towards the vision of a TB-free world by 2050. The Plan will serve to stimulate research and development of the new drugs, diagnostics and vaccines that will make it possible to realize this vision. Recognizing the need for long-term planning for TB control, we support the Partnership in helping to implement the Plan in line with our national policies.

One of the most significant areas in which human development can be improved is through the elimination of a preventable disease. TB is a disease of the poor. It is a disease which prevents people from escaping poverty. Investment in TB control is therefore an investment not only in alleviating human suffering from TB but also in alleviating poverty. An investment in the Global Plan to Stop TB is a sound one. We call on all nations to mobilize the resources needed to implement the Global Plan to Stop TB, as part of investments in strengthening health systems and improving health care delivery.

We are committed to Stop TB. This Plan provides the blueprint for the next decade. We support this Plan to Stop TB and call on all nations to do the same.



**Hilary BENN**  
U.K. Secretary of State for  
International Development



**Andrew NATSIOS**  
Administrator, U.S. Agency for  
International Development